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THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS IN  
ENGLISH

A CENSUS OF THE OPINIONS OF SIX HUNDRED FRESHMEN

The figures upon which this report is based were obtained from the six hundred Freshmen at Harvard College who are taking the prescribed course in English composition known as English A. These six hundred men cannot be considered typical representatives of the high school students of the United States. In the first place, they are all boys. In the second place, they are unrepresentative of the entire country, inasmuch as 75% of them come from the North Atlantic States. In the third place, they represent the small minority who go to college, and of that small minority the still smaller percentage who go to Harvard College. A further allowance must be made: these students do not even represent fully the opinion of the Freshman Class at Harvard, inasmuch as from that class a large number of men have succeeded in anticipating English A and so have not been included in this census. Yet, even with all these allowances, it is felt that the body of opinion here formulated deserves the consideration of those who compile lists of books to be read in schools, of those who set and read examination papers for entrance to college, and of those generally who are interested in the study of English.

It is to be hoped that no portion of this report will lead to the assumption that school programmes and lists of required reading should immediately be changed so as to follow the line of least resistance, as that line appears from this leaflet. At least, however, we ought to know what this large body of men think about the books which they have read. For, unquestionably, too much of the discussion at conventions of educational societies is based either upon pure theory or upon the observation of the opinions of a small and necessarily unrepresentative body of pupils.

The six hundred Freshmen in English A were asked to tell (a) what the relative position they would assign to each of

the books read in preparation for college; (b) what were their preferences of the groups, considered as groups; (c) what books now on the required lists ought, in their opinion, to be taken off the lists; (d) what books not on the lists ought, in their opinion, to be added.

#### GROUP I.

Group I consists of the following plays, of which two are expected to be read: Shakspeare's *As You Like It*, *Henry V*, *Julius Cæsar*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*. Of these plays *Julius Cæsar* was read by 516 men, of whom 249 put it first, 204 second, 60 third, and 34 fourth. Its removal was asked for by only 3. *The Merchant of Venice* was read by 504 men, of whom 237 put it first, 213 second, 48 third, and 6 fourth. Its removal was asked for by 17 men. *As You Like It* was read by 258 men, of whom 81 put it first, 48 put it second, 105 put it third, 18 put it fourth, 3 put it fifth, and 3 put it seventh. No one asked to have it taken from the list. *Twelfth Night* was read by 120 men, of whom 12 put it first, 27 second, 30 third, 33 fourth, 18 fifth. Three men asked to have it taken from the list. *Henry V* was read by 90 men, of whom 18 put it first, 18 put it second, 24 put it third, 18 put it fourth, and 12 put it fifth. Fourteen asked to have it removed.

These figures may be summarized by saying that in respect to the frequency with which the books in Group I are read in school their rank is as follows: *Julius Cæsar*, *Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *Henry V*. With respect to their popularity among students, however, the ranking is slightly different. It may be represented by the following figures: *Julius Cæsar*, 1.645; *Merchant of Venice*, 1.648; *As You Like It*, 2.32; *Henry V*, 2.87; *Twelfth Night*, 3.23. That is to say, *Julius Cæsar* and *The Merchant of Venice* are virtually tied for first place, although *Julius Cæsar* has a very slight lead, and *The Merchant of Venice*, therefore, strictly speaking, comes second, both in respect to the frequency with which it is read and in respect to its popularity. *As You Like It* ranks third with respect both to frequency and to popularity. *Twelfth Night*, which ranks fourth with respect to the frequency with which it is read, is considerably less popular than *Henry V*.

The suggestions for additions to Group I are interesting: *Hamlet* is suggested by 29 men; *Othello* by 12; *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *King Lear*, *Henry IV*, *The Comedy of Errors* by 3 each; *Richard III* and *The Tempest* by 2 each. It would appear, therefore, that we have in Group I two plays so popular that they may almost be said to teach themselves,



and three others of distinctly inferior popularity, though none so remote from the interests of students that it could be called a decided failure.

## GROUP II.

Group II, of which one title is to be selected, includes Bacon's *Essays*, the first part of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the *Sir Roger de Coverley Papers* and Franklin's *Autobiography*. In this group the *Sir Roger de Coverley Papers* are read by a very large majority. Of the 462 men who had read them only 87 had read anything else in this group which they preferred. Of these 87 men, 75 put the *Spectator* papers in the second place and 12 put them in the third place. Only 15 asked for their removal, — a very small percentage, considering the relative unpopularity of this group as a whole, and considering also the great number of those who had read the *Spectator* papers. The other books in this group seem to have exerted relatively little influence. Bacon's *Essays* were read by 61, of whom 30 gave them first place, 12 second place, and 19 third place, while 18, or 30%, asked to have them taken from the list. Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* was read by 141 men. It received first place from 42 men, second place from 57, and third place from 42, while 36, or 27%, asked for its removal. Franklin's *Autobiography* was read by 219 men, of whom 84 gave it first place, 120 gave it second place, and 15 gave it third place, while 27, or 12%, asked to have it taken from the list.

These figures, relating to Group II, may be summarized by the following ranking of the books: with respect to the frequency with which they are read, — the *Sir Roger de Coverley Papers*, Franklin's *Autobiography*, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Bacon's *Essays*; with respect to their popularity, — the *Sir Roger de Coverley Papers*, Franklin's *Autobiography*, Bacon's *Essays*, and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. There were no additions suggested for this group. The general indications seem to be that the average student needs to be introduced to books in this class in order to become acquainted with them, that he generally likes the *Sir Roger de Coverley Papers*, but that the other books in this list have to be very enthusiastically taught to appeal to any save the boy whose special aptitude for the study of English literature excludes him from the class which worries teachers of English.

## GROUP III.

Group III includes Chaucer's Prologue, Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, Pope's *Rape of the Lock*, Goldsmith's *Deserted Vil-*

lage; Palgrave's *Golden Treasury* (First Series), Books II and III, with especial attention to Dryden, Collins, Gray, Cowper and Burns. One of these is to be selected. In Group III Goldsmith's *Deserted Village* is read much more frequently than anything else. Of the 354 boys who had read it, 282 had either read nothing else in Group III or else preferred Goldsmith. Fifty-one, however, put the *Deserted Village* in second place, 18 put it in the third place, and 3 put it in the fourth place. Only 6% asked for its removal. Of the other books in this list the *Golden Treasury* was read by 87 boys, 36 of whom gave it first place, 42 second place, and 9 third place, while 7% asked for its removal. Pope's *Rape of the Lock* was also read by 87 boys, of whom 48 put it first, 27 second, and 9 third, while 6% asked to have it taken from the list. Spenser was read by only 39 boys, of whom 18 put it first, 15 second, 3 third, and 3 fourth. One-third of those who had read Spenser asked that he be taken from the list. Chaucer's *Prologue* was read by 93 boys, of whom 51 put it first, 33 second, and 9 third. Thirteen per cent. asked to have it taken from the list.

Ranking the books in Group III, therefore, according to the frequency with which they are read, the *Deserted Village* would come first, Chaucer's *Prologue* would come second, Pope's *Rape of the Lock* and the *Golden Treasury* would be tied for the next place, and Spenser's *Faerie Queene* would come last. Ranking these same books in accordance with their popularity would put them in a slightly different order; namely, *The Deserted Village*, *The Rape of the Lock*, Chaucer's *Prologue*, *The Golden Treasury*, *The Faerie Queene*.

#### GROUP IV.

Group IV consists of the following novels, of which two are to be read: Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*, Scott's *Ivanhoe*, Scott's *Quentin Durward*, Hawthorne's *House of the Seven Gables*, Thackeray's *Henry Esmond*, Mrs. Gaskell's *Cranford*, Dickens's *Tale of Two Cities*, George Eliot's *Silas Marner*, Blackmore's *Lorna Doone*.

*Ivanhoe* was read by 459 boys, of whom 225 put it first, 108 put it second, 84 put it third, 24 put it fourth, 15 put it fifth, and 3 put it sixth. Only two boys asked to have it taken from the list. *A Tale of Two Cities* was read by 345 boys, of whom 135 put it first, 126 second, 36 third, 27 fourth, 12 fifth, and 9 sixth. Three asked for its removal. *Silas Marner* was read by 396 boys, of whom 93 put it first, 96 second, 117 third, 36 fourth, 33 fifth, and 21 sixth. Thirteen asked for its removal. *The Vicar of Wakefield* was read by 210 boys, of whom 54 put it first, 24 second, 51 third, 42



fourth, 21 fifth, 9 sixth, and 9 seventh. Twenty-six boys asked to have it taken from the list. *The House of the Seven Gables* was read by 195 students, of whom 9 gave it first place, 36 gave it second place, 54 gave it third place, 57 gave it fourth place, 18 put it fifth, and 21 put it sixth. Twenty-four asked for its removal. *Quentin Durward* was read by 168 persons. Of these, 21 gave it first place, 63 second, 30 third, 39 fourth, 6 fifth, and 9 sixth. Eight asked to have it taken from the list. *Henry Esmond* was read by 96 boys, of whom 6 put it first, 21 put it second, 24 put it third, 24 put it fourth, 15 put it fifth, and 6 put it sixth. No fewer than 31 asked to have it taken from the list. *Cranford*, the least popular book in the group, was read by only 27 boys, none of whom put it first, 12 of whom put it second, 12 of whom put it fifth, and 3 of whom put it sixth. Twenty-one felt moved to ask that it be taken from the list.

These facts may be summarized by saying that the books in Group IV, considered with reference to the frequency with which they are read, rank as follows: *Ivanhoe*, *Silas Marner*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Quentin Durward*, *Henry Esmond*, *Cranford*. In popularity, the books fall into a slightly different order; namely, *Ivanhoe*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Silas Marner*, *Quentin Durward*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *Henry Esmond*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Cranford*.

It seems clear that, in view of its popularity, *Quentin Durward* might well be used more frequently. *Cranford*, considered with reference to this particular group of students, is a distinct failure; but one would wish to have statistics from some typical woman's college before arriving at any decision.

The suggestions for additions to Group IV are, as might be expected, very numerous and very interesting. Most notable among them is the urgent demand for Stevenson, one or another of whose works is asked for by no fewer than 97 men. Of these, 52 asked for *Treasure Island*, which makes one additionally glad that it is now on the list; 15 asked for *Kidnapped*; 6 for *The Black Arrow*; 3 each for *Travels with a Donkey*, *St. Ives*, and *A Lodging for the Night*; 2 each for *An Inland Voyage* and *The Wrecker*; while 11, without specifying any title, merely request "some Stevenson." Dickens is desired by 65 men, 27 of whom asked for *Pickwick Papers*, 9 for *Oliver Twist*, 8 for *Our Mutual Friend*, 6 each for the *Old Curiosity Shop* and *David Copperfield*, and 3 for *Martin Chuzzlewit*, while 6 specify no title. Twenty-seven men ask for something by Cooper, of whom 18 suggest *The Last of the Mohicans*. Twenty-one men ask for Kipling, of whom 9 name *Captains Courageous*; 22 ask for Scott, of whom 15 name *The Talisman*. Fifteen ask for Thackeray, of whom 6

name *Pendennis* and 4 *Vanity Fair*. Nine ask for something by George Eliot, 6 for Mark Twain, and the scattering suggestions, some of which could hardly be taken into account, include Poe's *Tales*, *Charles O'Malley*, *Hugh Wynne*, *The Right of Way*, *The Last of the Barons*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Little Minister*, *The Last Days of Pompeii* (named by 3 men), *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Crisis*, *The Marble Faun*, *The Caxtons*, *Monte Christo*, *Westward Ho* (mentioned by 2 men), *Via Crucis*, *The Moonstone*, *Our Village* and *Ben Hur*. These suggestions, even if they do not deserve to be taken into account the next time a new list of books is made up, may at least be useful in deciding upon outside reading.

#### GROUP V.

Group V consists of the following books, of which two are to be selected: Irving's *Sketch Book*, Lamb's *Essays of Elia*, De Quincey's *Joan of Arc* and *English Mail Coach*, Carlyle's *Heroes and Hero Worship*, Emerson's *Essays* (selected), Ruskin's *Sesame and Lilies*. Of these, Irving's *Sketch Book* was named by 348 men, of whom 306 put it first, 27 second, 9 third, and 6 fourth, while only 5% asked for its removal. De Quincey's *Joan of Arc* and *The English Mail Coach* were read by 135 men, of whom 45 put it first, 75 put it second, 6 put it third, and 3 put it fourth, while 18% asked for its removal. Ruskin's *Sesame and Lilies* was read by 105 men, of whom 33 put it first, 45 put it second, 21 put it third, 6 put it fourth, while no fewer than 46% asked for its removal. Lamb's *Essays of Elia* were read by 75 men, of whom 30 put it first, 39 second, 3 third, and 4 fourth. Twenty-six per cent asked to have it taken from the list. Carlyle's *Heroes and Hero Worship* was read by 66 men, of whom 21 put it first, 30 put it second, and 15 put it third; 37% asked for its removal from the list. Emerson's *Essays* was read by 60 men, of whom 18 gave it first place, 27 gave it second place, and 15 gave it third place. Exactly 50% asked to have it taken from the list.

The result of the statistics for Group V, therefore, places the books contained in it in the following order with respect to the frequency with which they are read in schools: *The Sketch Book*, *Joan of Arc* and *The English Mail Coach*, *Sesame and Lilies*, *Essays of Elia*, *Heroes and Hero Worship*, Emerson's *Essays*. Their order with respect to popularity is decidedly different. This order is, first, *The Sketch Book*; second, *Essays of Elia*; third, *Joan of Arc* and *The English Mail Coach*; fourth, *Heroes and Hero Worship*; fifth, Emerson's *Essays*; sixth, *Sesame and Lilies*. The unsuccessful attempt to make pupils like Ruskin, and the infrequency with which the



*Essays of Elia* are read, considering their popularity, are very striking.

#### GROUP VI.

Group VI consists of the following books, of which two are to be selected: Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*; Scott's *Lady of the Lake*; Byron's *Mazeppa* and *Prisoner of Chillon*; Palgrave's *Golden Treasury* (First Series), Book IV, with especial attention to Wordsworth, Keats, and Shelley; Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome*; Poe's Poems; Lowell's *Vision of Sir Launfal*; Arnold's *Sohrab and Rustum*; Longfellow's *Courtship of Miles Standish*; Tennyson's *Gareth and Lynette*, *Lancelot and Elaine*, and *Passing of Arthur*; Browning's *Cavalier Tunes*, *Lost Leader*, *How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix*, *Evelyn Hope*, *Home Thoughts from Abroad*, *Home Thoughts from the Sea*, *Incident of the French Camp*, *Boy and the Angel*, *One Word More*, *Hervé Riel*, *Pheidippides*. Of these, the *Ancient Mariner* stands first. It was read by 380 men, of whom 183 put it first, 66 second, 48 third, 30 fourth, 15 fifth, 26 sixth, 5 seventh, 3 eighth, and 4 ninth. *The Lady of the Lake* was read by 358 persons, 102 of whom put it first, 96 put it second, 51 put it third, 36 put it fourth, 33 fifth, 8 sixth, 6 seventh, 7 eighth, and 9 ninth. *Gareth and Lynette* was read by 320 pupils, of whom 57 gave it first place, 55 second, 64 third, 54 fourth, 31 fifth, 6 sixth, 37 seventh, 13 eighth, and 3 ninth. *Lancelot and Elaine* was read by 315 persons, of whom 45 put it first, 67 second, 61 third, 46 fourth, 34 fifth, 19 sixth, 18 seventh, 22 eighth, and 3 ninth. *The Passing of Arthur* was read by 296 pupils, 54 of whom gave it first place, 39 second place, 37 third place, 52 fourth, 25 fifth, 31 sixth, 22 seventh, 14 eighth, and 22 ninth. *The Vision of Sir Launfal* was read by 293 persons, of whom 21 gave it first place, 47 second, 56 third, 36 fourth, 67 fifth, 39 sixth, 21 seventh, and 6 tenth. Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome* received the attention of 238 pupils, of whom 63 put it first, 57 second, 33 third, 18 fourth, 27 fifth, 12 sixth, 12 seventh, 11 eighth, and 5 ninth. *The Courtship of Miles Standish* was read by 146 pupils, of whom only 9 gave it first place, 28 gave it second place, 24 third, 21 fourth, 11 fifth, 20 sixth, 6 seventh, 9 eighth, and 8 ninth. *Sohrab and Rustum* was read by 109 pupils, 12 of whom put it first, 16 second, 15 third, 34 fourth, 8 fifth, 9 sixth, 8 seventh, 3 ninth, and 4 tenth. Browning was read by 89 students. Of these, only 3 put him first, only 4 second, 6 third, 9 fourth, 4 fifth, 17 sixth, 22 seventh, 21 eighth, and 3 ninth. Byron was read by an even smaller number. Of the 73 who mentioned him, 9 put him first, 9 second, 17 third, 18 fourth, 6 sixth, 5 seventh, 6

eighth, and 3 tenth. Poe's Poems, strangely enough, were read by only 63 pupils, 15 of whom put him first, 9 second, 16 third, 6 fourth, 12 fifth, 2 seventh, and 3 eighth. It is still more surprising to find that the *Golden Treasury* was used less frequently than any other book in Group VI. Of the 39 persons who mentioned it none put it first, 6 second, 9 third, 15 fourth, and 9 sixth.

The differences are rather surprising in certain cases in Group VI between the frequency with which books are read and their popularity as shown by the expression of opinion of students. Considered with respect to the frequency with which they are read, the books rank as follows: (1) *The Ancient Mariner*; (2) *The Lady of the Lake*; (3) *Gareth and Lynette*; (4) *Lancelot and Elaine*; (5) *The Passing of Arthur*; (6) *The Vision of Sir Launfal*; (7) *Lays of Ancient Rome*; (8) *The Courtship of Miles Standish*; (9) *Sohrab and Rustum*; (10) Browning; (11) Byron; (12) Poe; (13) the *Golden Treasury*. Considered with respect to their popularity the books, with their numerical rating, are: (1) *The Ancient Mariner* (2.38); (2) *The Lady of the Lake* (2.74); (3) Poe (3.22); (4) *Lays of Ancient Rome* (3.24); (5) *Lancelot and Elaine* (3.58); (6) *Gareth and Lynette* (3.61); (7) the *Golden Treasury* (3.92); (8) *The Courtship of Miles Standish* (3.98); (9) *Sohrab and Rustum* (4.05); (10) Byron (4.09); (11) *The Vision of Sir Launfal* (4.11); (12) *The Passing of Arthur* (4.14); (13) Browning (6.02). It seems clear that teachers think much better than do their pupils of *The Vision of Sir Launfal* and *The Passing of Arthur*. The former, which comes sixth in point of frequency, comes eleventh in popularity. The latter stands fifth in frequency, but twelfth in popularity. It also seems clear that, judging by their popularity among those students who have read them, the *Golden Treasury*, *Lays of Ancient Rome*, and the Poems of Poe might be read more frequently than they are, for the *Golden Treasury*, which stands thirteenth on the list with respect to the frequency with which it is read, is given the seventh place by the pupils. The *Lays of Ancient Rome*, which are seventh in frequency, are fourth in popularity. And the Poems of Poe, which stand twelfth in frequency, are third in popularity.

The requests for removal from Group VI vary somewhat from what might be expected in view of the ranking given above. This variation seems to show that books often fail to arouse much enthusiasm and yet manage to escape censure. The removal of Poe or of the *Lays of Ancient Rome* was not suggested; that of *Lancelot and Elaine*, *Gareth and Lynette*, and *The Passing of Arthur* was asked for by two per cent.; that of *The Lady of the Lake* by three per cent.; that of *The Vision of Sir Launfal* by five per cent.; that of *The Ancient*



*Mariner* and *The Courtship of Miles Standish* by six per cent.; that of *Sohrab and Rustum* by eleven per cent.; that of the *Golden Treasury* by fifteen per cent.; that of Browning by eighteen per cent.; that of Byron by twenty-one per cent.

#### BOOKS FOR STUDY.

The books for study seem to be regarded by these pupils as necessary evils, with the exception of *Macbeth*, which most of them appear to have enjoyed. These books, considered with reference to the frequency with which they are read, fall into the following order: *Macbeth*, Milton's *Minor Poems*, Macaulay's *Life of Johnson*, Burke's *Speech on Conciliation with America*. That teachers are well advised in using these books as they do will seem to many to be shown by the fact that the order of popularity is precisely the same as that of frequency. The number of persons who asked for the removal of any of these books from the list is very small, and is not perceptibly larger in the case of Burke than in the case of the other books. Macaulay's *Life of Johnson*, although it arouses no particular enthusiasm, seems to have escaped violent censure more conspicuously than any other of the books required for study, since only two persons asked to have it taken from the list.

Of the suggestions for addition to the prescribed reading, two or three might well be made study books: *Hamlet* was mentioned by several men, *Paradise Lost* by one, and another speech by Webster was named by two.

#### RELATIVE POPULARITY OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS.

Group I was the first choice of 99 men, the second choice of 111, the third choice of 81, the fourth choice of 15, the fifth choice of 21, and the sixth choice of 12. Group II was put first by 9 men, second by 15, third by 48, fourth by 111, fifth by 60, sixth by 54. Group III was put first by 9 men, second by 9 men, third by 21, fourth by 60, fifth by 90, sixth by 69. Group IV was put first by 201 men, second by 99, third by 24, fourth by 33, fifth by 9. It is worthy of note that Group IV is the only one of the groups which no one put in the last place. Group V had 18 votes for first choice, 27 for second, 27 for third, 42 for fourth, 66 for fifth, 84 for sixth. Group VI was put first by 96, second by 78, third by 99, fourth by 24, fifth by 18, sixth by 15.

This table may be summarized by saying that Group IV stands easily first in popularity. Its position may be indicated by the figures 1.22. Group I holds second place, though at a very considerable interval from Group IV, as its rating in

figures (2.36) will indicate. Group VI stands in the third place, though only very slightly below Group I. Its position may be indicated by the figures 2.5. After these three groups, all of which are popular, there comes a long interval before we reach the fourth place, which is occupied by Group II, the numerical rating for which is 4.21. Group V occupies fifth place, with a numerical rating of 4.375. Group III brings up the rear with a numerical rating of 4.63.\*

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\* This numerical rating is obtained by adding the number of votes for first place to twice the number of votes for second place, to three times the number of votes for the third place, etc., and dividing the total by the number of the men who have read the book in question. As in golf, the lowest score is the best.

#### SUMMARY.

The considerable amount of work done over these reports has deeply impressed the compiler with the sincerity of the men who have sent in these replies. They seem to have felt that, having passed out of school, they could say exactly what they wanted to say about the books read in school. This was precisely what was wished. For example, although no one can highly commend him as a critic of literature, certainly no one can fail to commend as a sincere witness the boy who, answering the questions about the books in Group II, put them in the following order: 1, *The Sir Roger de Coverley Papers*; 2, Franklin's *Autobiography*; 3, *Pilgrim's Progress*; 4, Bacon's *Essays*, and justified this order by the four following comments, which were respectively placed opposite the four books named above: "Fair"; "Dry"; "Very dry"; "Fierce." It would certainly seem as if the testimony of six hundred men, most of whom have answered in the same spirit as the witness quoted above, though usually with more respect for sound literature, ought to have some value in guiding our deliberations concerning prescribed reading in schools. In the opinion of the writer it is to be hoped that before long a very thorough census may be made in which the testimony of various persons shall be taken and separately tabulated for comparison. It is important to note the opinions of teachers of English in school, of teachers in school whose subjects are most affected by the efficiency of instruction in English, of teachers of English in college, of teachers in college the effectiveness of whose instruction most depends upon the effectiveness of the instruction in English, of pupils in high schools, of pupils in college, of pupils who have left the high school but have not gone to college, of parents and of employers. It is also important to keep separate the opinions of pupils in various parts of the country, and the opinions



from different kinds of schools (public, private, endowed); and it is important to find out whether the opinion of girls is much different from the opinion of boys. To endow such a census would be an important gift to education.

C. N. GREENOUGH.

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### EDITOR'S NOTES.

We are sure that members of the Association will find keen interest in the valuable information which Professor Greenough has prepared for us. The investigation should be carried further, and we trust that many teachers may do statistical work along similar lines and forward the results to us. The matter is especially important now, in view of the coming meeting of the National Conference on Uniform Requirements in English.

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It is a pleasure to announce that a new monthly, the *English Journal*, is to make its appearance on January 15, 1912. It is to comprise sixty-four pages of material to be devoted to the cause of English teaching. Mr. J. F. Hoscic, of the Chicago Normal School, is to be the editor; the University of Chicago Press is to be the publisher. The subscription price for eleven issues is two dollars a year. It is earnestly hoped that all our members will give their cordial support to this enterprise.



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